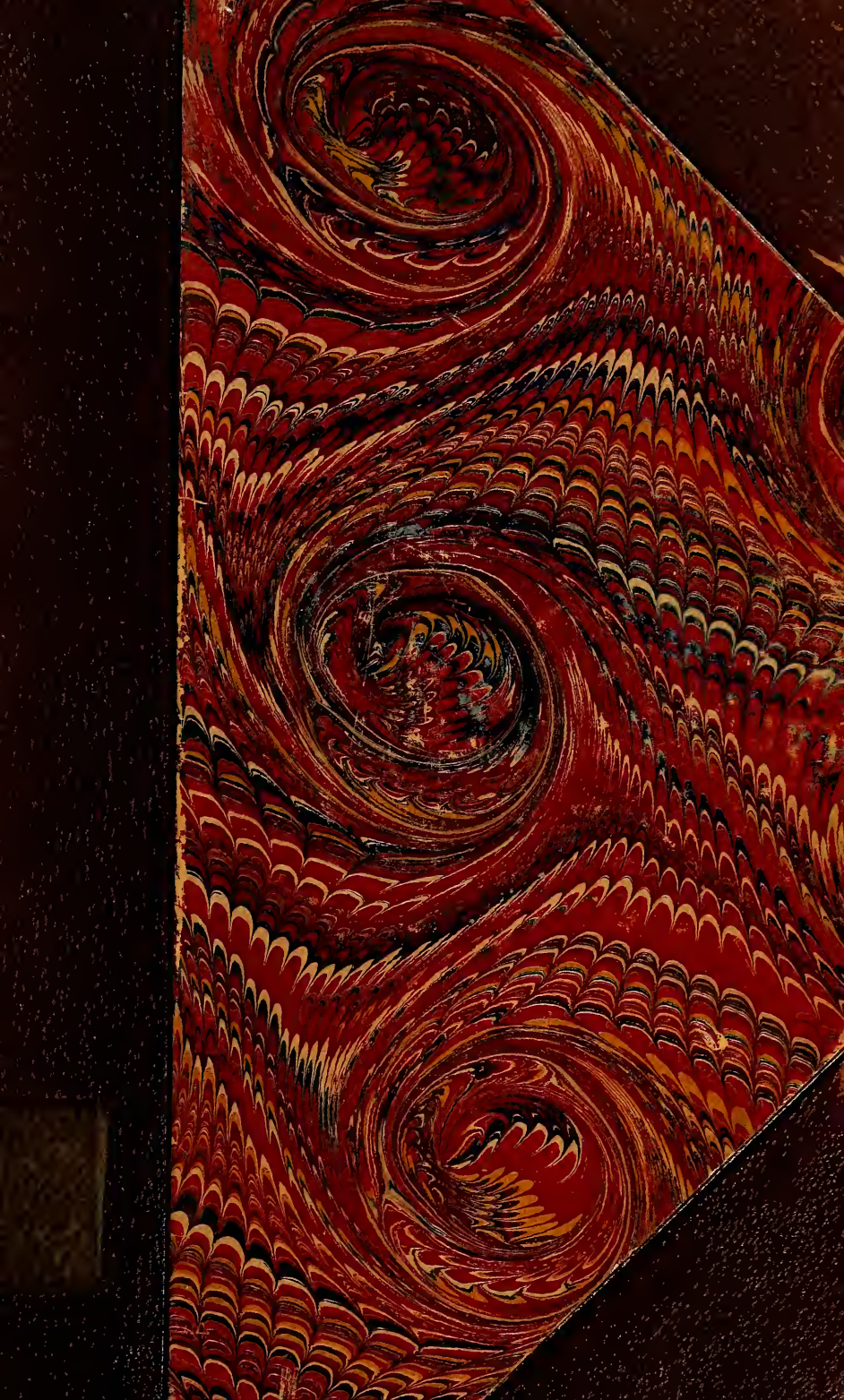




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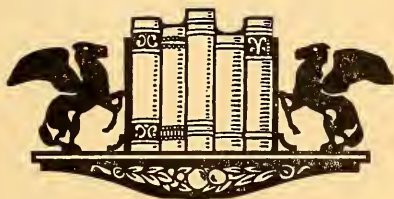
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OCCASIONAL PAPER.

No. 18.

APRIL 19TH, 1902.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 24th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Hon. Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

This number is being issued on the eve of the Conference, which promises to be well attended and to be of an interesting nature. Three papers will be read by blind experts, and representative blind men and women will be present. Extracts from the full prospectus are given in this number, which, on account of the Conference, is issued a week before its usual time, and it is well to note, in order that no one may be disappointed, that admission to the meetings is by card only, issued by the Committee of the Gardner's Trust, with the holder's name written on it. Anyone who has not yet received his card should write at once to the Secretary of Gardner's Trust, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. A special feature in connection with the Conference will be the Concert on Friday Afternoon, April 25th, at Queen's Hall, by the pupils of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, at which T.R.H. The Prince and Princess of Wales have graciously consented to be present.

It is with much regret that several communications have been crowded out of this number, especially one in connection with the Brussels Congress in August.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. We much regret to have to record the deaths, in January last, of Admiral Sir Edward S. Sotheby, K.C.B., at the age of 88, and Miss Emma F. Newbery, both of whom took much interest in the blind and an active part in their welfare. The latter was lady superintendent of the Home for Blind Children at Kilburn, which has now been closed some years. It was open for about 23 years, and there was accommodation for 30 children. Sir Edward was appointed a member of the Royal Commission on the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., on January 20th, 1886, and was for many years, Chairman of the Committee of the Association for the General Welfare of the Blind in Berners Street, and subsequently in Tottenham Court Road.

2. Mr. C. E. Cole, M.A., formerly a master at the Blind College, Powyke, has been appointed organist of Holy Trinity Church, Oxford.

3. Mr. Godfrey H. Hamilton has been appointed Secretary to the British and Foreign Blind Association. He was selected out of 41 applicants, and we wish him all success in the work he has undertaken. For the last ten years he has been connected with Hospital work, the last appointment being organising secretary to the Seamen's Hospital Society, Greenwich.

4. Mr. W. Woolstenholme, B.Mus., has been appointed organist of Weigh House Congregational Chapel, Duke Street, W.

5. Mrs. MacNicol, 64, Lancaster Gate, W., has been appointed Hon. Secretary of the Institute for Massage by the Blind, in the place of Mr. Chater, who has resigned. The Committee have recently issued appeals for funds, as they have decided not to start the work of the Institute until a certain amount of support is assured.

6. Mr. J. J. Plater, who was educated at the Institution for the Blind at Edgbaston, and who now has a large basket manufactory in Birmingham, is one of the Governors of the Yardley

Charity Estates, and is an active Member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and of the School Committee. Councillor Plater takes great interest in all local matters, and in February last presided at the Annual Meeting of the Sparkhill and District Amateur Horticultural Society. Mr. Plater's success in business has seldom, if ever, been equalled by any blind man.

7. Miss Isabel C. Western, who has done so much in transcribing music in Braille, and to whose work we referred in paragraph 12, No. 15, is shortly to be married, and is therefore unable to undertake orders at present, but she hopes to resume the work in the summer. We wish her all happiness in her new life.

8. The Annual Festival Dinner on behalf of the funds of the Royal Blind Pension Society will take place at the Hotel Metropole, on Thursday, May 1st. The Right Hon. The Earl Egerton of Tatton will preside.

9. Mr. George H. Russell, who has recently lost his sight, and is the author of "Under the Sjangbok," has published another novel called "On Commando," which gives a good insight into Boer and Native life in South Africa. Mr. Russell served in the Zulu war in 1879, and since then has seen a good deal of fighting in South Africa.

10. When Dr. Fraser, of the Halifax (Nova Scotia) School for the Blind, was in England last year, he told us how successful some of his pupils had been in the art of shampooing the hair, and he considered it an occupation well adapted for the blind. The experiment will soon be tried in London. A blind young woman has been carefully trained, and by means of a grant from the Gardner's Trust for initial expenses, will shortly begin work. She will attend at private houses, and already has been promised employment from seventeen ladies. We heartily wish success to this venture, which is being tried for the first time in England, as it opens a new field of labour for blind women.

11. Mr. Alvaro Coelho, the Editor of "Jornal dos Cegos," a monthly paper on matters referring to the blind, printed in Portuguese, is very anxious to buy Nos. 1, 2, 4, 6, and 8 of "The Blind," in order to complete his set. All these numbers are out of print, but if any of our readers can kindly spare some, or all of them, we shall be pleased to purchase them for Mr. Coelho, and forward them to him.

12. The London County Council have under consideration the question of the advisability of taking steps with a view to the establishment of Municipal Workshops for the Blind.

13. In the notice, in our last number, of the Institution for the Blind at Nottingham, we omitted to mention the Sick Club in connection therewith. It seems in a flourishing condition, and on the 31st of December last there was a sum of £86 4s. 3d. in hand. It has been in existence twelve years.

14. The Christmas Tree Festival at the Royal Normal College for the Blind took place on the afternoon of January 20th, at the College. The chair was taken by the Right Hon. James A. Campbell, M.P., and an excellent programme was performed, which all the pupils thoroughly enjoyed. The actors and actresses were well versed in their parts, which were evidently as much a pleasure to them as to the audience. Lady Stirling Maxwell kindly unveiled the Christmas Tree, and presents were duly distributed.

15. We are pleased to hear that the Workshops for the Blind at 158, Westgate, Wakefield, which were started January, 1901, are now securely established with a permanent teacher and manager. There are in Wakefield and the district round, about 60 blind people, of whom six men are basket-making, and three women chair-caning at the workshops. To Miss Edith Wright is due the inception of the workshop scheme, and Mr. Charles Crampton, with his twelve years' experience at the Yorkshire School for the Blind, started the workshops on a thoroughly practical and businesslike footing.

16. We are pleased to hear that the workshop, which the North Staffordshire Joint School Authority found to be a necessity, will probably be started before these lines appear. It is also satisfactory to know that it will not be amalgamated, as suggested, with the Cripples Guild, but will be worked entirely for the benefit of the Blind only.

17. The following books have been added to the Free Library, Oxford: Gardner, "Students' History of England," from 1689 to the present time. Gardner, "Introduction to English History," vol. 1. Seth, "Scottish Philosophy." Greenidge, "Constitutional History of Greece," vols. iv. and v.

18. The following important French works have been printed by the "National Institution for the Young Blind," Paris:—Corneille, "Horace" and "Cinna." Racine, "Mithridate." A selection from "Les Caractères (La Bruyère). Lavissee, "Histoire Moderne" and "Histoire Contemporaine." Daudet, "Contes Choisis."

19. Mr. Anagnos, the Secretary of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind at Boston, has kindly sent us a copy of the 70th Annual Report of that Institution. It forms quite a large volume, and is very interesting, especially in regard to the wonderful success attained at this Institution in the education of blind deaf-mutes from the time of Laura Bridgman, who was the first blind deaf-mute who was ever taught the use of language down to the present time, when there are no less than five promising pupils being trained to take their stand "on the same plane as their seeing, hearing companions, accepting their own responsibilities, exercising foresight and enjoying common interests with their fellows."

20. The following extracts from the Census (1901) of the County of London are interesting:—

"The number of persons returned as "Blind" is 3,556, and of these, 113 suffer from some other infirmity. The former figure compares with 3,573 in 1891.

Of the 3,556 persons returned as blind, 140 were under 10 years of age, and 2,558 were retired or unoccupied, leaving 858 or about one quarter of the whole, engaged in work. Of these 673 were males, and 185 females; of the females, 110 were unmarried and 75 married or widowed. Those described as Blind from childhood, included 88 occupied males and 42 occupied females.

Of the blind, 122 persons were workers in willow, cane, or rush; 90 were musicians; 76 costermongers; 49 brush or broom makers, and 45 musical instrument makers and tuners."

It will thus be seen that although the population has increased in the ten years by 308,224, the number of blind persons has actually decreased by 17. The number however of those blind from childhood has risen from 467 to 491. The males numbered 1685, and the females 1871. Of the Metropolitan Boroughs, Southwark, heads the list with 303 blind persons; Islington next with 287, then St. Pancras with 247, closely followed by Stepney with 246.

The occupations are presumably those in which the blind were then engaged as those without occupation are classified separately, and therefore it is interesting to note the various occupations, as for instance 10 commercial travellers, 28 (11 males and 17 females) at laundry work, 11 boot and shoemakers, 5 carmen, 1 watchmaker, 1 railway engine driver or stoker, &c., there are 5 barristers or solicitors, but only 2 clergymen.

21. Our attention has been drawn by a paragraph in a newspaper to a discussion which took place on a certain School Board in regard to the education of blind children. Apparently the subject had been brought forward six months previously, but nothing had been done! At this subsequent meeting, one member asked if the Board had any authority to compel blind children to attend school, another member questioned whether the Board had, another thought they had, and finally the matter was left over "*for the Clerk to make enquiries*"! Meanwhile the blind children are apparently at home, and not at school as they are legally bound to be. It seems as if the members of the

Board have never heard of the Elementary Education, (Blind and Deaf Children,) Act 1893, nor of Circular 347 issued by the Board of Education. But why has not the Clerk heard of them? For the sake of the blind children we trust this enquiry has not proved so difficult and troublesome as to consume another six months.

At a meeting of the District Council in another part of the country, there was a discussion as to the cost of blind children to the parish, and it was stated that their present cost was equal to a 3d. rate.

22. We have seen a copy of the programme of the Concert to be held on Friday Afternoon, April 25th, at Queen's Hall, by the pupils of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, and it is one that will ensure music lovers a great treat.

The Choir of the College will be assisted by past pupils and a select orchestra. The programme will include:— "Saviour of Sinners," Mendelssohn: Pianoforte Concerto in E flat, Beethoven: Ode "Blest Pair of Sirens," Sir Hubert Parry: Symphony for Organ and Orchestra, Guilmant: Concertstück for four solo voices, chorus, orchestra and piano, Gade: Rondo in C for two pianos, Chopin: Madrigal "The Silver Swan," Gibbons. Part song "The Gnomes," Rubinstein: Chorus of Reapers, Liszt. Mr. August Manns will be the conductor, except when Sir Hubert Parry conducts his own composition.

23. A comfortable home in a lovely part of Monmouthshire has recently been opened for the reception of any blind person needing change of air. Application for admission should be made to the Rev. J. Swinnerton, Llandevaud Vicarage, Caerleon, Monmouthshire. The Home is started in connection with the Newport Blind Aid Society. Any blind person can be admitted free from the Newport district on the nomination of the secretary, or from another district on payment of 10/- a week for board, lodging and attendance.

24. A very successful dinner was given at Brighton, on February 1st, in behalf of the funds of the Barclay Home for

blind girls. Lord Hampden, the brother of the Hon. Mrs. Champion who is the indefatigable Hon. Secretary to the Home, presided at the dinner, and was supported by the Duke of Norfolk, Sir Francis Mowatt, K.C.B., and others. We understand that the proceeds have enabled the committee to pay off the whole of the debt of the Building Fund.

25. Last year, one of the blind inmates of the Wolverhampton Union died. He was born a slave in South America and escaping, came to England as a lion tamer : some years ago, the circus to which he was attached passed through that neighbourhood, and he decided to give up his post, and eventually, he obtained work, but his employment injured his sight and he was eventually admitted to the Union.

INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES.

Bradford. The Bradford Incorporated Institution for the Blind was founded 1861. The 41st Annual Meeting was held on February 18th, when the Mayor presided, and the Report and Balance Sheet for 1901 approved. Attention is drawn to the serious decrease of subscriptions, which last year amounted to only £193 in Bradford. Forty men have been employed in brush-making, 10 in basket making, 2 in mat-weaving, 2 in pianoforte tuning, and 23 women in knitting and re-caning chairs. There are about 150 blind persons resident in the City, and of the aged there are 35 annuitants, receiving £287 in the aggregate. The present workrooms are to be extended, at an estimated cost of £1,500 (to which reference was made in our last number), which will give additional room for the basket department, a basket showroom, women's work-room, dining-room for men, and a room for brush drawing. The sales amounted to £12,745, and the wages earned to £3,466, to which was added in bonus £544. The deficiency on the year amounted to £304.

Exeter. The West of England Institution for the Blind, St. David's Hill, Exeter. The Sixty-second Annual Report was submitted to the governors at a meeting held on February 26th, at the Institution. On December 31st there were 55 pupils on the books, 23 males, 16 females, and 16 journeymen. The sales increased to £916, being the highest amount ever realized at the Institution. The wages to blind workmen amounted to £387. £2,998 were received in legacies. The superintendent, in his report, draws "special attention to a somewhat unique incident in the annals of Blind Institution work, viz.: the fact that one of our pupils (Fredk. Coaker), recently obtained a certificate of competency as a pianoforte tuner, before attaining the age of 16."

Isle of Wight. The Eighth Annual Report of the Isle of Wight Society for the benefit of the indigent Blind, for the year 1901, has been issued. This Society provides a teacher for teaching the Blind to read and write at their own homes, and also gives instruction in basket and cane work and provides tools and materials. Those suffering from defective sight are also assisted. There are 81 blind persons in the Island, of whom 10 are of independent means, 23 partly able to support themselves, and 48 dependent on parents, friends or parish relief. There are 16 local secretaries in various parts of the Island.

London. Home Teaching Society for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. The Forty-sixth Annual Meeting was held in the Jerusalem Chamber, Dean's Yard, on March 12th, when the Right Hon. Viscount Midleton presided. The adoption of the report was moved by the Bishop of Stepney. There are 1,830 blind persons on the register, of whom 433 are in workhouses. There were 35,535 visits made during the year, and 32,451 books in Braille and Moon's types were lent. The Society sends visitors to Windsor, Hertford, Ware, Rochester, and Chatham, and last year started a new branch at Aldershot. There are 14 blind teachers on the staff. This is the central Home Teaching Society, and there are besides about 60

provincial Associations, many of which were started by this Society. The financial position of the Society would have been very bad last year but for legacies amounting to £235; even then there was a loss of nearly £50 on the working.

London. The Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E., held its Annual Meeting, on March 20th, at Stafford House, St. James, S.W., by kind permission of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland. The Earl of Aberdeen presided in the regrettable absence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The speakers included Mr. Choate (the United States Ambassador), Lord Stalbridge, Canons Barker and Fleming, and others, and the meeting, during which a select choir from the College sang at intervals, was very well attended. The Report for 1901 is of more than ordinary interest, as extracts are given from letters of past students, and also from clergymen, pianoforte firms, &c., all telling the same story, that when carefully and thoroughly trained, the majority of the blind are able not only to earn their own living, but support their families, and to compete with the sighted. The College was founded in 1872, and includes five departments:—A Preparatory School, a Secondary School, a Training College, a Technical School, and an Academy of Music. It is stated in the report that “it is a remarkable result that, of the pupils who have completed their training at the College, no fewer than 89 per cent. are now earning their own living.” During 1901 there was an average of 150 pupils. The success of the College and the warm testimony of the old pupils to their training, must be a source of much gratification to Dr. Campbell, who is the only one now remaining of the original founders of the College. He has, as stated in the report, devoted himself to the interests of the College “with unabated zeal and with singular ability,” and has lived to see the time when many of his old pupils have risen up to bless the results of the education given them at the College, and to thank him for the principles of self-help and of dogged perseverance which were inculcated during the period of their tuition.

Manchester. Henshaw's Blind Asylum. The Sixty-second Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the Institute for the Blind, Deansgate, Manchester, on February 5th, when the Report for 1901, together with the accounts, was adopted. There were 181 blind persons, of whom 80 were children, in the Asylum at the close of the year. Thirteen pupils sat for examination under the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and all passed, three taking honours. The Board grant an adequate supply of tools to those who, on leaving the Institution, have a good record as to character and proficiency, but sometimes, in spite of entreaties, pupils leave before they are proficient. The legacies last year amounted to £3,035. We are pleased to see a large increase in the grants to ex-pupils and outside blind, amounting in all to £1,206, and that 153 receive weekly payments. Reference is made to the new scheme, but apparently negotiations are still going on with the Charity Commissioners, although it is expected that the final scheme will be published very soon. In the outdoor workshops there are 39 men and nine women employed, and the average weekly earning of the men was 14s. 5½d. Six men earn over £1 each, and nine over 15s. per week. The sales amounted to £5,321, and the loss on working was £524. A leaflet on Prevention of Blindness is issued in the report.

Manchester. The Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society has issued its Report for 1901, which was approved at the Second Annual Meeting, presided over by the Lord Mayor of Manchester. The Society is divided into various branches, and was about to start a workshop, but this scheme is apparently in abeyance, pending the result of the application from Henshaw's Blind Asylum to the Charity Commissioners. The Central Rooms at the Royal Eye Hospital, St. John Street, Deansgate, were opened on January 21st, 1901, and is now a daily scene of busy life. The Sick and Benefit Branch has 170 members, and the Home of Rest at St. Anne's-on-the-Sea has had 85 visitors, besides the three regular inmates. The Home for Women, at 1, Hulme Place, has nine regular residents. The blind are visited by a blind man, and temporary assistance has been given to 36

blind persons and special grants to 25. The Braille Library is rapidly increasing, and £101 were paid last year to 24 writers, one corrector, and 13 home teachers, all blind. The Society is making a most praiseworthy effort to alleviate the poverty and misery amongst the blind in Manchester and Salford, and, when possible, to help them to be self-supporting. Much of the Society's success is due to the untiring energy and devotion of Miss Isabel M. Heywood, the Hon. Secretary.

Reading. The Reading Blind Aid Society, established in 1893, of which Mr. Hugh E. Walford, Pattingham, London Road, Reading, is Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, has issued its Ninth Annual Report, for the year ended January 31st, 1902. This Society has assisted by pensions during the past year, 35 blind persons who were born in, or have been resident for seven years within, the Borough of Reading. All those who are blind are well looked after by the Society, and there is only one blind beggar in the town. The endowment fund now reaches £1,534.

Sheffield. The Twenty-third Annual Meeting of subscribers to the Sheffield Institution for the Blind was held on February 13th, when the report and accounts for the year ended December 31st, 1901, were approved. There are four departments of work:—(a) The school certified for 35 boys and 35 girls. (b) The outdoor workshops and retail shop for the employment of men and women. (c) The Home Mission for teaching the aged Blind to read, and for relieving the necessitous ones; and (d) Cottage Homes. The school has been quite full throughout the year. In the workshops 29 men, 7 women and one learner have been employed. The sales amounted to £2,906, being an increase of more than £300 over that of the previous year. The wages paid to the Blind amounted to £716, to which was added in bonus £96. The school received a legacy of £300 and the workshop of £200. There was a profit of £33 at the workshop, and £26 at the retail shop. The cost of maintaining the Cottage Homes, including pensions to the six tenants, was £161. The Report contains useful suggestions on prevention of blindness, and also to the parents and friends of blind children.

Wolverhampton. The Twenty-seventh Annual Report for 1901 of the Wolverhampton Society for the Blind, 17, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton, was approved at the Annual Meeting, on March 21st. There are 106 names on the register of the Home Teaching Branch, and every blind person is visited once a fortnight by a blind lady. There is a Sick Benefit Society, with a credit balance of £131. In the workshops there are 18 men and four women employed, and the sales amounted to £1,665, being an increase of £100 over those of last year. The wages paid to workpeople amounted to £474. Two legacies, of £100 and £50 respectively, were received and added to the Endowment Fund, which now amounts to £692 10s. The debt of £256 on the New Buildings Fund, which amounted in the aggregate to £2,143, has been paid off. The Horsman Fund, consisting of £400 invested at four per cent., has been the means of giving relief in cases of aged blind people and of sickness.

THE APRIL CONFERENCE.

The following arrangements and regulations in connection with the Conference, now being organised by the Committee of the Gardner Trust, in regard to matters relating to the Blind, have been made.

The Conference will be held on April 22nd, 23rd and 24th, in the Hoare Memorial Hall, at the Church House, Westminster. This is a central and convenient position. The entrance to the Church House is from Great Smith Street, which leads off Victoria Street, just opposite the Westminster Palace Hotel. There is a constant stream of omnibuses passing up and down Victoria Street from all parts of London, and St. James Park and Westminster Bridge Stations on the Metropolitan District Railway are within a few minutes' walk of the Church House.

MONDAY, APRIL 21st. During the afternoon an opportunity will be given (by the kind invitation of Dr. F. J. Campbell) to all members of the Conference to visit the Royal Normal

College for the Blind at Norwood, and to see the various departments of the work that is carried on there.

At 8 p.m. a Service will be held, by kind permission of the Incumbent, the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, M.A., in Belgrave Chapel, (Church of England), Halkin Street, off Belgrave Square. The service will be conducted by those who are blind. The sermon will be preached by the Rev. N. F. McNeile, M.A., Vicar of Brafferton, and the Royal Normal College for the Blind will provide the choir. Belgrave Chapel is close to Hyde Park Corner, where a great many omnibuses pass from all parts of London.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22nd, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chairman: The Right Hon. The Earl Egerton of Tatton, late Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c.

Education.—"The higher education of the Blind," by the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, M.A., formerly Fellow and Reader in English Literature of the University of Durham.

„ "Provision for the instruction of the Blind on attaining 16 years of age, and of those going blind after that age, having regard to the Act of 1893," by the Rev. T. W. Sharpe, C.B., late H.M. Chief Inspector of Schools.

2 to 5 p.m. Chairman: Mr. Alfred C. Cronin, F.S.A., Master of the Clothworkers Company, (1899-1900.)

„ "Provision for "defective" blind children," by Mr. C. S. Loch, Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society.

„ "Physical training of the Blind," by Dr. F. J. Campbell, Principal of the Royal Normal College for the Blind.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23rd, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chairman: Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr, Chairman of the Gardner Trust for the Blind.

Professions and Trades.—"Professions and Trades best adapted for the Blind, including those not usually practised, and the best means of helping the Blind to carry on the trades for which they have been trained," by Mr. Henry Stainsby, General Superintendent and Secretary of the General Institution for the Blind at Birmingham.

„ "Most approved methods of conducting workshops, including the question of wages, and of providing lodging accommodation for the workers," by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., Principal of the School for the Indigent Blind, Southwark.

2 to 5 p.m. Chairman: The Right Hon. the Lord Kinnaird, a Trustee, and a member of the Committee, of the Gardner Trust for the Blind.

Literature.—"The need of more and cheaper Literature for the Blind," in Braille type, by Mr. Alfred Hirst, of Whitby; and in Moon's type, by Miss Moon, the daughter of the inventor of the type.

"Uniform Braille System," by Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Head Master of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Chairman:

The Aged Blind.—"Provision for the aged by means of pensions, homes, or otherwise," by Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr, Chairman of the Committee of the Gardner Trust.

"Statistics concerning Blindness," by Mr. Reginald MacLeod, C.B., Registrar-General.

"Home Teaching Societies," by Miss E. M. Bainbrigge, Secretary to the London Home Teaching Society for the Blind.

2 to 5 p.m. Chairman: Mrs. Henry Fawcett.

General.—"Greater solidarity and interchange of opinion among Institutions, the need of a Central Bureau, and uniform plan of keeping accounts," by Mr. W. H. Tate, Member of the Committee of the Bradford Institution for the Blind.

"Prevention of Blindness," by Mr. R. Brudenell Carter, F.R.C.S., Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon to St. George's Hospital.

"Intermarriage of blind persons," by Mr. R. N. Hartley, M.B., B.S. (London), Hon. Surgeon to the Institution for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, and to the Schools for the Blind, at Leeds.

On FRIDAY, APRIL 25th, arrangements have been made for visits in the morning to the Institutions for the Blind in Tottenham Court Road, in Upper Avenue Road, (St. John's Wood), and at Greenwich.

3 p.m.—An Orchestral Concert, at which their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales have graciously intimated their intention of being present, will be given at Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W., the north end of Regent Street. The Choir and Artistes of the Royal Normal College for the Blind will undertake the vocal works and solos. All the soloists, except two, are present or past Gardner Trust Scholars. Queen's Hall is close to Oxford Circus, where very many omnibuses converge: Oxford Circus Station, Central London Railway (tube) is near the Hall.

REGULATIONS.

(a)—That no person be admitted to the Conference Hall without a card of invitation, with his or her name written on it, or other evidence of having been invited. All cards are numbered and non-transferable.

(b)—That the selected Readers of Papers be strictly limited to twenty minutes.

(c)—That each paper, as soon as read, be followed by a discussion, and that the length of the discussion be determined

by the Chairmen of the respective meetings, it being understood that, as a general rule, the time of the several sessions shall be divided equally amongst the subjects then to be discussed.

(*d*)—That any member of the Conference desirous of speaking on any subject in a session, shall send, during the meeting, his card, stating his connection with the Institution he represents, to the Chairman and await his call.

(*e*)—That speakers be limited to ten minutes, but that this period may be extended in special cases at the discretion of the presiding chairman.

(*f*)—That all questions in regard to limiting, if necessary, the length of the speeches and the selection of those whose cards have been sent up, be in the discretion of the presiding chairman, whose decision shall be final.

(*g*)—That speakers shall address the chairman, and confine themselves strictly to the subject under discussion.

(*h*)—That no one be permitted to speak twice in the same discussion.

(*i*)—That no formal resolution be moved at any meeting of the Conference.

NOTE.—The Secretary's bell will give warning two minutes before the expiration of the allotted time and will sound again at its conclusion.

Those who wish to have a copy of the Official Report, which will contain the papers in full, and a report of all the speeches, are requested to fill in at once one of the order forms for that purpose enclosed herewith. The cost of the report will largely depend on the number purchased, but the price of each copy will not exceed 2/6.

RAILWAY FACILITIES.

By favour of the London and North Western, and Midland, Railway Companies, delegates attending the Conference will be able to obtain return tickets to London at a single fare and a quarter from any station on the respective lines on production of a special certificate, which can be obtained by applying at once to the Secretary of Gardner's Trust, stating class required and station.

THE DUSSAUD WRITING FRAME.

The following is a translation of an article by Mr. G. Delarue on the Dussaud Writing Frame, which appeared in "Le Valentin Haüy" for January last.

After referring to the numerous articles which have appeared in the newspapers—articles apparently written by those who know little or nothing about the Blind—in which reference was made to the frame as a revolution in the methods of educating the Blind, the system of writing Braille was described with ludicrous mistakes, and it was even asserted that under the old system it took five or six years for a blind person to read and write Braille, Mr. Delarue says:—

"This frame, the price of which will be less than ten francs, is not yet on sale. The inventor is only in possession of models which he is labouring to bring to perfection; he makes judicious use of every hint which comes in his way, and of every remark made to him. The apparatus consists of a copper or aluminium frame, on which the paper is fixed at the top end, and, of a movable brass in two parts, the one above, and the other below the paper (joined by a hinge), the brass can be moved from top to bottom, and lifted or set down at will. The frame is jointed in such a way as to be capable of being carried in the pocket, and has on every line a letter of the alphabet, which serves as an index. For the use of schools, the apparatus should be fixed on a table to keep it firm. The brass, which has only one row of rectangles, bears on its lower part a series of blunt points, forming as many sets of six dots as there are rectangles in the guide of the brass, that is to say twenty. We must now explain the second part of the mechanism of the ruler; it consists of a guide pierced by rectangles, like those of the guide of the ordinary Braille frame, and a second plate fixed just beneath the first in which glide very short sockets, hollowed out in the lower part to receive the point of the style, and at the upper part to receive the relief of the dot obtained on the paper. These sockets are a little extended on the upper part in order that the point of the style may fall easily and are, be it understood, to the number of six per rectangle. The lower pit of each socket corresponds to

a point in the upper part of the ruler; it will, therefore, be understood, that if a sheet of paper be placed between the sockets and the points, which is done by lifting or letting fall the guide of the ruler on the paper, it only remains to press one of the sockets in one of the rectangles of the guide to produce a dot. The sockets fall back into place by the mere elasticity of the metal.

This apparatus, which it will be seen, constitutes quite a small machine, is very ingenious and interesting. Without displacing the paper (as is necessary in the case of a frame with a single sash) without raising the sash (which must be done with a frame with a double sash) the blind will be able to read what they have written—a very great advantage. In order to read a line which is being written, and even the preceding line, it will always be necessary to raise the upper part of the ruler, which is, however, easily done. Finally, calculations done in Braille, which, with the ordinary frame were not impossible, but which presented serious difficulties, will, without doubt, be greatly facilitated. . . . All the same, as perfection can exist nowhere, and there is no advantage without its inconveniences, it may for instance be asked whether this apparatus will not be somewhat fragile in the hands of awkward school children; whether writing will be really as rapid as with the ordinary frame; whether it will be possible to write on both sides of the sheet, either by interlining or interpointing, or whether, without a great increase of price, we shall ever be able to make this apparatus fit to write small characters. But of this we can be certain that, as far as possible, every real defect will be avoided. Too often inventors, when working for the blind, have not sufficiently considered that the first condition of success is the control of the finger; others carefully avoid this control because it upsets their preconceived ideas. It thus comes about that, not being in touch with those interested, too many inventors succeed in creating systems which may be ingenious, but turn out to be impracticable, and are soon forgotten. M. Dussaud has acted quite otherwise. To begin with, he has seriously considered the Pablasek frame, he has then consulted a number of blind experts, has invited their criticism, and carefully con-



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